

On page 10, line 8, after "make" and before "clear" delete "the".

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

- Sub B1
1. (Amended) A low profile hacksaw comprising:
- an elongated blade having opposing longitudinal end portions and a cutting edge between said longitudinal end portions;
- a hacksaw frame assembly comprising a rigid I-beam frame member with upper and lower end caps and a generally vertical web member extending therebetween, said frame member having a forward end portion, a maximum height portion, and an arcuate portion extending substantially the entire length between said forward end portion and the maximum height portion and curving downwardly and forwardly towards said forward end portion to provide said hacksaw with a lower overall height at the forward end portion of said frame member than at the maximum height portion, said maximum height portion being defined at the point where both the distance between said blade and said lower end cap is a maximum and the arcuate portion begins its downward and forward curvature;
- a first blade mounting structure carried by the hacksaw frame assembly, one of said longitudinal end portions of said blade being removably mounted on said first blade mounting structure;
- a releaseable blade tensioning device carried by the hacksaw frame assembly and providing a second blade mounting structure on which the other of said longitudinal end portions of said blade is removably mounted, said blade
- a7

tensioning device being movable [constructed and arranged] to (a) affect relative tensioning movement between said first and second blade mounting structures to tension said blade in the longitudinal direction thereof [and thereby apply a rearwardly directed force to the forward end portion of said frame member], and (b) [said tensioning device being constructed and arranged] to affect relative releasing movement between said first and second blade mounting structures to release the tension to allow for removal and replacement of said blade;

one of said first and second blade mounting structures being provided on said forward end portion of said frame member [said frame member being constructed and arranged] such that the tension in said blade caused by the relative tensioning movement of said blade mounting structures applies a rearwardly directed load [applied] to said forward end portion [creates] to create a bending [movement] moment which is distributed along said arcuate portion; and

said hacksaw frame assembly further comprising a manually engageable handle [constructed and arranged to be] connected to said frame member for being manually grasped to enable performance of a cutting operation wherein the cutting edge of the tensioned blade is engaged with a work piece and moved forwardly and rearwardly to cut the work piece.

2. (Amended) A low profile hacksaw according to claim 1, wherein the arcuate portion of said frame member is defined along at least one arc having a center of curvature located below said blade when said hacksaw is oriented in an upright position with the cutting edge of the blade facing downwardly.

a7 3. (Amended) A low profile hacksaw according to claim 2, wherein the lower end cap of said I-beam frame member extends arcuately from a rearward end portion of said frame member to the forward end portion of said frame member along a portion of the circumference of a first imaginary circle having a first centerpoint located below said blade when said hacksaw is oriented in an upright position with the cutting edge of the blade facing downwardly, said maximum height portion being defined at said rearward end portion;

said upper cap of said I-beam frame member extending arcuately from the rearward end portion of said frame member to the forward end portion of said frame member along a portion of the circumference of a second imaginary circle having a second centerpoint located below said blade.

Please add the following new claim:

a8 ~~123.~~ (New) A low profile hacksaw according to claim 1, wherein said first blade mounting structure is provided on said forward end portion of said frame member.~~:-~~

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please delete the Abstract in its entirety and substitute the attached sheet.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.